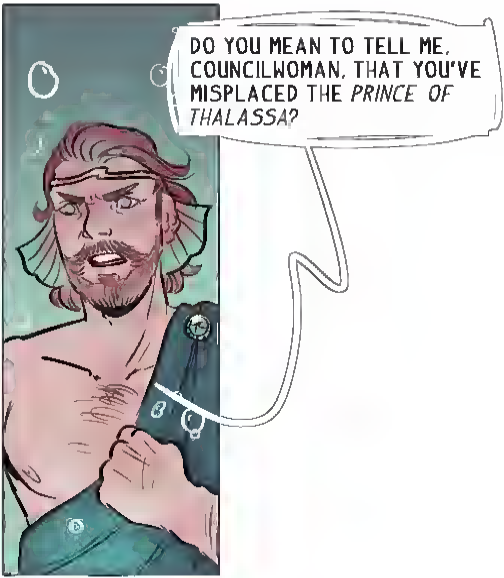
# UNDER THE ASCOTS

THIS IS DISGRACEFUL!

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE TRUST BASILEIANS, I SHOULD *NEVER* HAVE LET YOU TALK ME INTO RELEASING MY WIELDER!


DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME, COUNCILWOMAN, THAT YOU'VE MISPLACED THE *PRINCE OF THALASSA*?

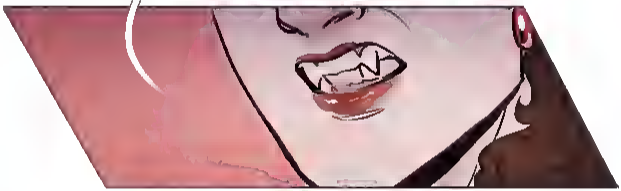
YOU TOLD US THAT OUR WIELDERS WOULD BE PROTECTED IN BASILEIA. YOU SAID GAWAIN WOULD BE SAFE--

PLEASE. I KNOW THAT THIS SEEMS ALARMING. BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE WIELDERS ARE WELL AND IN AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION--

WHY SHOULD WE BELIEVE YOU!?

HOW ARE WE TO KNOW THEY'RE WELL IF WE CAN'T EVEN *CONTACT* THEM??

LET HER *SPEAK*, YOU IMBECILE! DO YOU THINK PROTECTING SIX WIELDERS IS A SIMPLE FEAT?



OBVIOUSLY IT'S TOO HARD FOR BASILEIANS TO HANDLE!

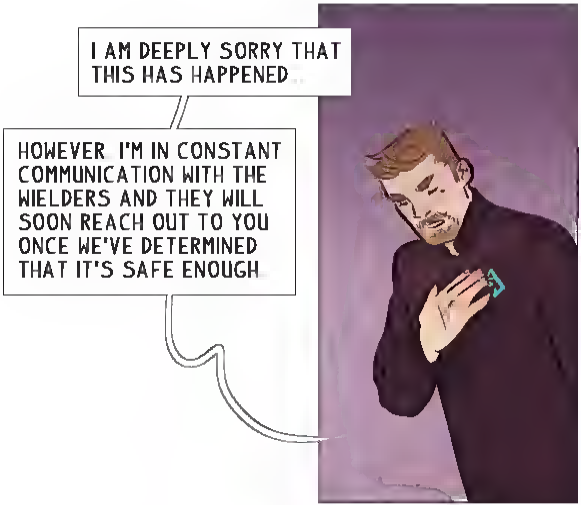
COUNCILWOMAN ALLURA BETRAYED OUR TRUST AND I HAVE A MIND TO MARCH INTO BASILEIA, FETCH MY WIELDER AND BRING HER HOME WHERE SHE BELONGS--

IF YOU SO MUCH AS SET FOOT IN BASILEIA AND BE STUPID ENOUGH TO SEPARATE THE WIELDERS, I'LL FIGHT YOU WITH ALL I HAVE--
IF IT'S WAR YOU WANT, IT'S WAR YOU'LL GET!
CALM YOURSELVES!
LET US NOT RESORT TO VIOLENCE OVER SOMETHING THAT CAN BE RESOLVED WITH DIALOGUE--

I AGREE WITH THE CHIEF, I WANT MY WIELDER HERE IN EIDEN CRAIG AND UNDER SUPERVISION UNTIL WE CAN DISCUSS A SOLUTION.
THE PRINCE BELONGS IN THALASSA, I WILL BE SENDING AN ENVOY TO RETRIEVE HIM IMMEDIATELY.

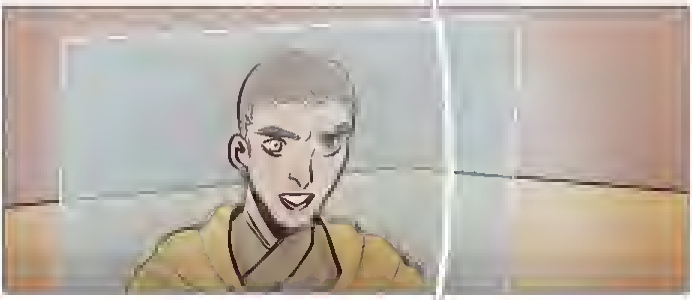
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU NEED YOUR WIELDERS CLOSE. BUT THEY'VE TOLD COUNCILMAN ARGUS, THEIR GUARDIAN, THAT THEY WISH TO REMAIN TOGETHER WITHOUT REVEALING THEIR LOCATION--

THEY WOULD SPEAK TO THIS ARGUS AND NOT THEIR OWN PEOPLE?? JUST BECAUSE HE'S THEIR *BABYSITTER*?


I AM DEEPLY SORRY THAT THIS HAS HAPPENED...
HOWEVER I'M IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION WITH THE WIELDERS AND THEY WILL SOON REACH OUT TO YOU ONCE WE'VE DETERMINED THAT IT'S SAFE ENOUGH

I AM SURE YOU ARE DOING ALL THAT YOU CAN. I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD RESPECT THE WIELDERS' DECISIONS.

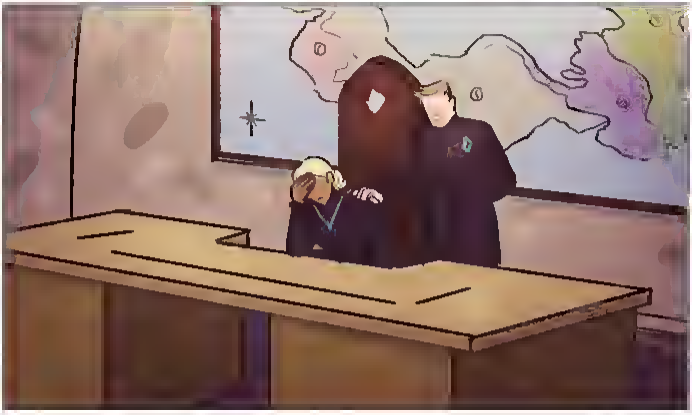
THEY ARE TRAINED AND GROWN AND IT WOULD DO US ALL WELL TO REMEMBER THAT THEY ARE NOT CHILDREN.

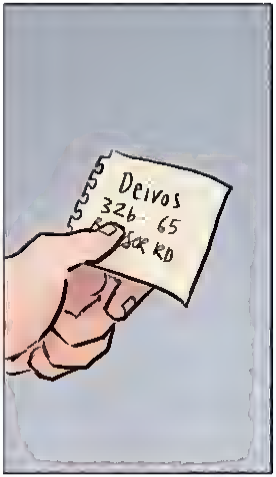


I AGREE THAT THEY SHOULD BE KEPT TOGETHER. AND IF MEASURES ARE TAKEN TO FORCIBLY SEPARATE THEM. TEMPLOS WILL FIRMLY INTERVENE.

THANK YOU, HIGH MONK. I WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP ALL OF YOU UPDATED WITH ANY NEWS AND HOPE THAT BASILEIA'S SOVEREIGNTY REMAINS UNVIOLATED. OR I TOO WILL TAKE MEASURES TO ENSURE IT IS SO.

THIS IS FAR FROM RESOLVED, COUNCILWOMAN. I WANT MY WIELDER BACK. I'LL BE WAITING FOR UPDATES.

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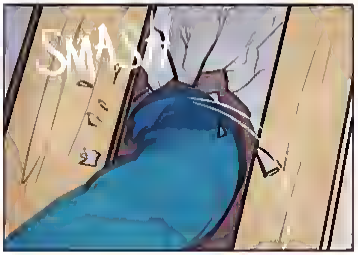
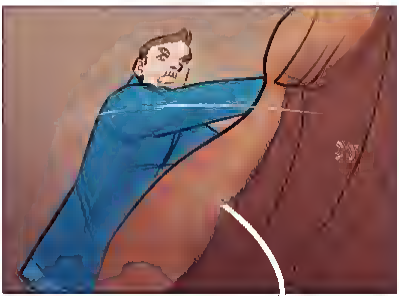
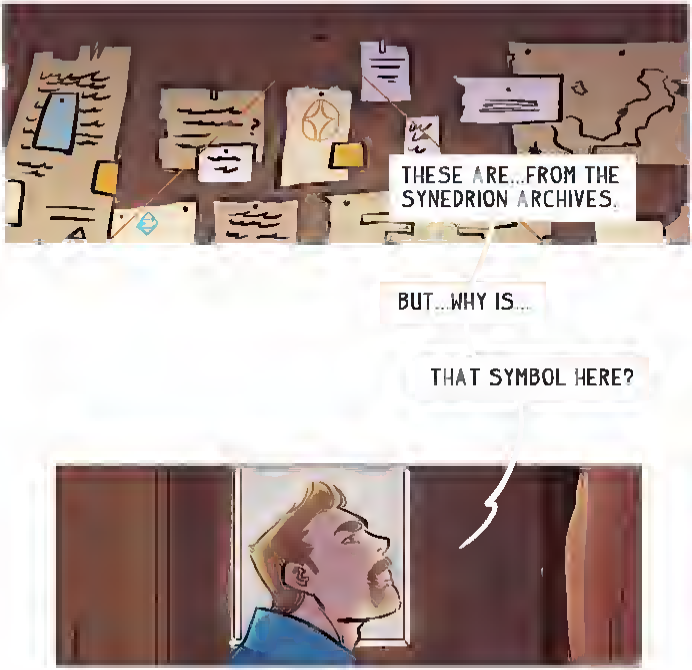

SMASH

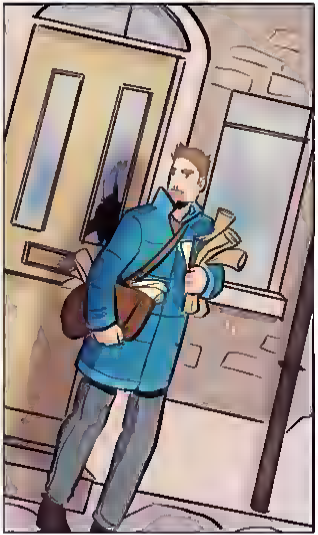
WHATEVER'S BEHIND THAT CURTAIN IS DEFINITELY NOT A WINDOW...



LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT HERE DEIVOS--

THIS IS...


THESE ARE...FROM THE SYNEDRION ARCHIVES.
BUT...WHY IS...
THAT SYMBOL HERE?

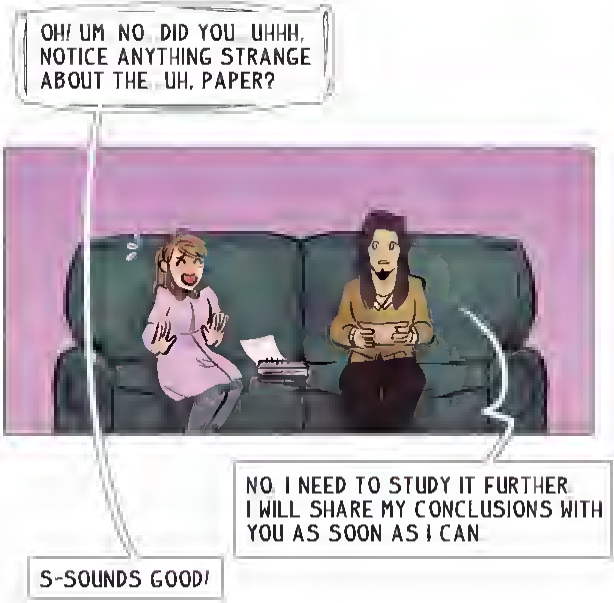


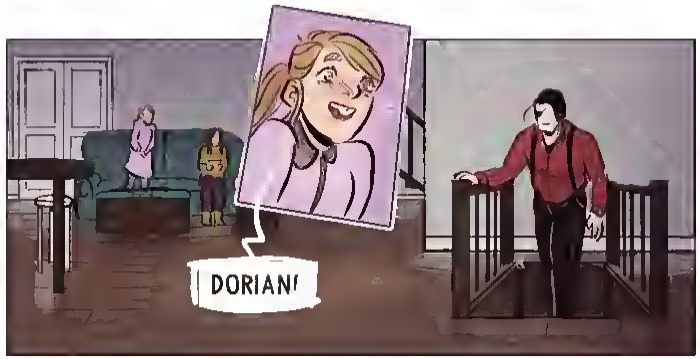
THEY'LL DISCOVER WHO WE ARE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER.

EVERYTHING WILL CONTINUE
TO GO AS PLANNED

WITH ALL THAT'S BEEN GOING ON I'VE ONLY JUST BEEN ABLE TO GET THIS STUFF ORGANIZED!
HERE, YOU ASKED TO SEE IT?
YES THANK YOU

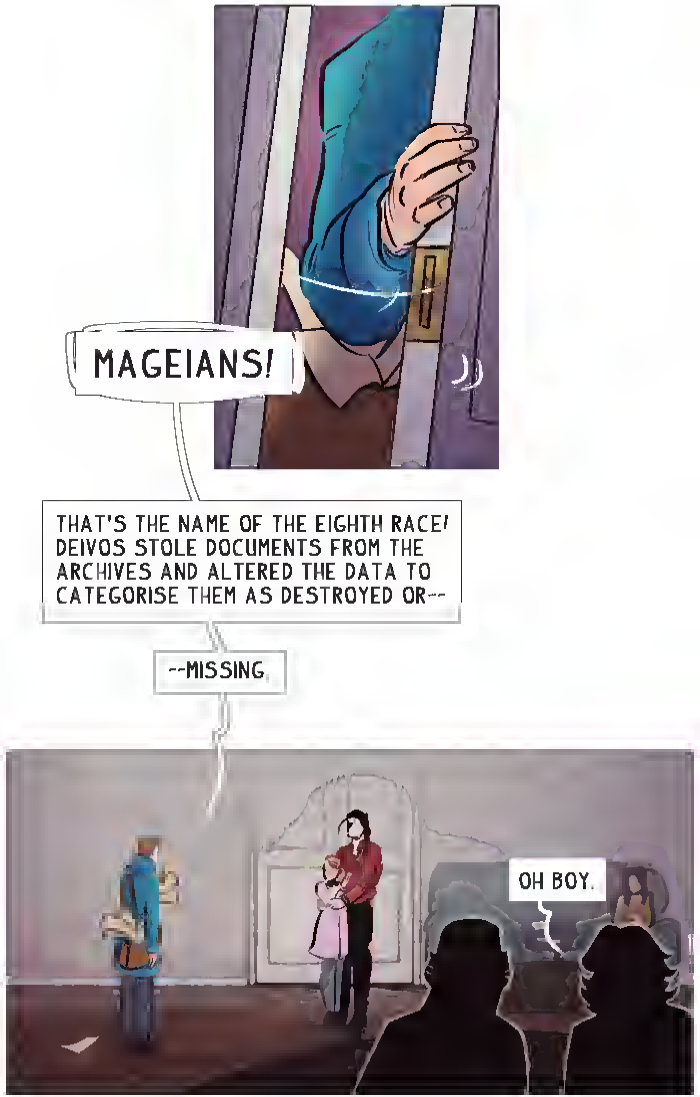
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?


OH! UM NO DID YOU UHHH, NOTICE ANYTHING STRANGE ABOUT THE UH, PAPER?
NO. I NEED TO STUDY IT FURTHER. I WILL SHARE MY CONCLUSIONS WITH YOU AS SOON AS I CAN.
S-SOUNDS GOOD!


DORIAN!

D-DID YOU...DID YOU SLEEP WELL?
YES...

OH, DON'T MIND US
IN FACT, JUST PRETEND WE'RE NOT EVEN HERE


MAGEIANS!
THAT'S THE NAME OF THE EIGHTH RACE! DEIVOS STOLE DOCUMENTS FROM THE ARCHIVES AND ALTERED THE DATA TO CATEGORISE THEM AS DESTROYED OR--
--MISSING.
OH BOY.

UM, UNCLE ARGUS, UHHH...
THIS ISN'T--I MEAN THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO UM—

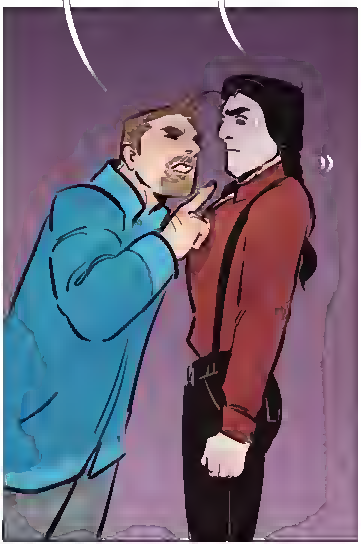
THWUMP

STOMP
STOMP

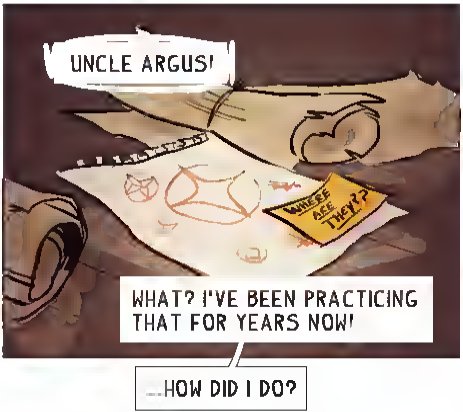
YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, DORIAN.

BUT IF YOU LET *ANYTHING* HAPPEN TO HER, I'LL MAKE YOU SUFFER FOR IT. DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?

YES SIR, I--I MEAN-- ARGUS... SIR.



GLAD TO HEAR IT!


UNCLE ARGUS!
WHERE ACE THEY??
WHAT? I'VE BEEN PRACTICING THAT FOR YEARS NOW!
...HOW DID I DO?